



Thursday, February 12, 2015

House Budget & Research Office  
(404) 656-5050

House Communications Office  
(404) 656-0305

- The House will reconvene for its 16th Legislative Day on Tuesday, February 17 at 10:00 AM.
- The Rules Committee will meet at 9:00 AM.
- One bill is expected to be debated on the floor.

## Today on the Floor

### Rules Calendar

#### **HB 52 Child custody; require parenting plans to be incorporated into final orders; change provisions**

Bill Summary: This bill clarifies language regarding parenting plans involving child custody. The bill adds to the court's discretion by giving the court the ability to waive the requirement for a parenting plan in the court's final decree in legal action involving the custody of a child.

Authored By: Rep. Regina Quick (117th)  
House Committee: Juvenile Justice

Rule Applied: Modified-Open  
Committee 02-02-2015 Do Pass  
Action:

Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 0

Amendments:

#### **HB 65 Education; local boards of education and certain charter schools to hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual operating budget; require**

Bill Summary: House Bill 65 requires local school boards and charter schools to hold at least two public meetings prior to adopting any budget, so that the public can provide input on the proposed annual budget. The public meetings must be advertised in a local newspaper, and a summary of the proposed budget must be posted on the local board's website. The governing body must also provide to any person requesting an electronic copy of the line item budget at no cost and within three days of such request.

Authored By: Rep. Michael Caldwell (20th)  
House Committee: Education

Rule Applied: Modified-Open  
Committee 02-04-2015 Do Pass  
Action:

Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 1

Amendments:

#### **HB 91 Education; eliminate Georgia High School Graduation Test; provisions**

Bill Summary:

House Bill 91 would retroactively allow past students who failed the Georgia High School Graduation Test but fulfilled all of the other requirements for graduation, to petition their local school board in order to obtain a degree from their high school. Past students receiving their diploma through this method will not count towards graduation rate calculations.

Authored By: Rep. Brooks Coleman (97th)  
House Committee: Education

Rule Applied: Modified-Open  
Committee 02-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee  
Action: Substitute

Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Amendments:

## Local Calendar

**HB 38 Grady County Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees as part of court costs; authorize**

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the Magistrate Court of Grady County to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

**Authored By:** Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 02-11-2015 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

**HB 251 Americus, City of; provide for a city manager**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Americus, so as to provide for a city manager, city clerk, and finance director.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 02-11-2015 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

**HB 254 Waycross, City of; rename the police court as the municipal court**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Waycross, so as to rename the police court as the municipal court and provide new provisions for the operations.

**Authored By:** Rep. John Corbett (174th)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 02-11-2015 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

**HB 257 Decatur County; restate provisions of said Act**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act relating to the board of commissioners of Decatur County to provide for the election of a chairperson and vice chairperson.

**Authored By:** Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 02-11-2015 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

**HB 258 Decatur County; office of treasurer; abolish**

Bill Summary: A Bill to abolish the office of treasurer of Decatur County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 02-11-2015 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

## **Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules**

*The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 16th Legislative Day, Tuesday, February 17 and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Tuesday, February 17 at 9:00 AM to set the Rules Calendar for the 17th Legislative Day.*

### **HB 172 Watercraft; operation while under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs; revise types of vessels**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 172 amends Code where "personal watercraft" is defined. New definitions are "homemade or inflatable raft", "personal watercraft", and "vessel". A homemade or inflatable raft is any platform which floats for giving buoyancy to a person and renders transportation with only the aid of the person's hands, arms, legs, or feet. Personal watercraft has the same meaning set forth in Code Section 52-7-8.2. A vessel is defined as every description of watercraft, other than a sailboard or homemade or inflatable raft, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water. These new definitions remove homemade or inflatable rafts from watercraft subject to boating under the influence provisions.

**Authored By:** Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th)  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 02-10-2015 Do Pass

## Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

### Economic Development & Tourism Committee

#### **SB 5 Georgia Ports Authority; provide for powers; acceptance of loans/grants from United States upon certain terms and conditions**

Bill Summary: SB 5 reasserts the power of the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) to comply with the terms of federal loans and grants, explicitly including the power to provide indemnification on behalf of the GPA or any other state agency or instrumentality that is an equal participant as a sponsor of a congressionally authorized civil works project. This language is viewed as a necessary measure for the receipt of more than \$400 million in federal funding for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bill Cowser (46th)

**House Committee:** Economic Development & Tourism **Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass

### Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

#### **HB 294 Stockbridge, City of; levy an excise tax**

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the City of Stockbridge to levy a hotel/motel tax.

**Authored By:** Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local **Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass

#### **HB 300 DeKalb County State Court; establish traffic division of said court; provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of DeKalb County, so as to establish the traffic division.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mary Oliver (82nd)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local **Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

#### **HB 301 DeKalb County Magistrate Court; provide a solicitor; provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal an Act creating and establishing the Recorder's Court of DeKalb County, to provide for the transfer of certain pending cases and court records.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mary Oliver (82nd)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local **Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass

#### **HB 302 DeKalb County; Chief Magistrate and other judges; increase and establish salaries**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for the compensation of certain county officers and officials of DeKalb County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mary Oliver (82nd)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local **Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass

## Juvenile Justice Committee

### HB 177 Social services; school personnel required to report child abuse shall be notified by child protective agency upon receipt of report and completion of investigation; provide

Bill Summary: This bill requires that within 24 hours of a school employee making a report of suspected child abuse, the agency which receives the report to acknowledge in writing to the reporting individual that the receiving agency has received that report. Further, after the agency has completed the investigation, that agency is required to disclose in writing, within 5 days, whether the agency confirms or un-confirms that child abuse has occurred to the school counselor or the principal.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. David Wilkerson (38th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	02-12-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Juvenile Justice		

## Ways & Means Committee

### HB 20 State income tax; certain allocations to owners of certain entities shall be governed by Georgia law; clarify

Bill Summary: This legislation would clarify the Low Income Housing tax credit (§48-7-29.6), to ensure that a members of an entity who receive such credits, may utilize their allocated credits and that an IRS determination of member is not necessary to use such a credit.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. John Carson (46th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	02-12-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Ways & Means		

### HB 49 Revenue and taxation; electronic service of certain notices; provide

Bill Summary: HB 49 allows for county Tax Commissioners to offer the ability for taxpayers to opt in for receiving their tax bills and notifications electronically.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Brett Harrell (106th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	02-12-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Ways & Means		

### HB 63 Georgia Employer GED Tax Credit Act of 2015; enact

Bill Summary: HB 63 revises the basic skills education programs income tax credit by allowing for a \$400 credit to the employer, when that employer pays for an employee to take the GED test through the technical school system of Georgia, or a \$1200 credit when that employer gives paid time off to the employee to prepare for the GED and take the test as well.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	02-12-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
<b>House Committee:</b>	Ways & Means		

### HB 120 Local option sales tax; provide for an additional purpose for tax

Bill Summary: HB 120 seeks to amend § 48-8-111, the SPLOST implementation statute. The legislation alters the code so that funds raised by SPLOST can be used to support a capital project that will be owned or is owned, either partially or wholly by a another political entity of the state, other than that of the taxing authority.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	02-12-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Ways & Means		

**HB 202 Revenue and taxation; provisions regarding ad valorem taxation, assessment, and appeal; provide comprehensive revision**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation seeks to significantly revise the process of appealing an Ad Valorem tax valuation. The bill authorizes the use of electronic tax bills with consent of the tax commissioner and the taxpayer, requires the 5 year history and proposed millage rate(s) to be published on the local government's website when one is available, and reduces the minimum time period between the notice of the proposed millage rate and five year history published in the paper and the adoption of the millage rate from two weeks to one. Additional time is granted to the tax commissioners to submit the digest of their county to the Department of Revenue. The ability for multiple counties to form a regional assessor's office, to share staff and resources but additionally prohibits contractors providing valuation services to the Board of Assessors from providing advice or assistance to the Board of Equalization and requires contractors to receive training specified by the Department of Revenue. When appealing a non-homesteaded property, the threshold to use a hearing officer is lowered to \$750,000. The legislation would grant certain powers to county commissions to either appoint an appeal administrator or work with the Clerks of Superior Courts to better administer the appeals process, while imposing certain qualifications, educational requirements, and performance requirements on those who serve on Board of Equalization. The bill further clarifies the processes of appealing a valuation and at what point the case may enter the court system. The deadline for obtaining a mobile home location permit is moved from May to April 1 and increases the penalty for not having such permit. Lastly, the legislation requires the fair market value of real and personal property to be shown on the PT 61 real estate transfer form to ensure the appraised value for tax purposes the following year does not exceed to sale price of the property.

**Authored By:** Rep. Paul Battles (15th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 215 Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax Act of 2015; enact**

**Bill Summary:** HB 215 establishes a new local option sales tax for counties, called the Equalization HOST (EHOST). This new option would require that all money derived from the penny sales tax be devoted to reduction of homesteaded property tax, in counties and in cities. Additionally, the legislation allows for a county which is currently collecting the full three penny allowable, who also have a HOST tax, and collects the MARTA tax to transition to the HOST by referendum as well as institute a SPLOST, both of which require passage or else the county reverts back to the currently imposed HOST.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Jacobs (80th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 227 Sales and use tax; programmable thermostats from the definition of Energy Star Qualified Product for purposes of the state sales tax holiday; remove**

**Bill Summary:** HB 227 amends the energy efficient sales tax holiday sales tax exemption to remove "programmable thermostat" from the list of exempted items.

**Authored By:** Rep. Geoff Duncan (26th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Committee Action:** 02-12-2015 Do Pass

**HB 231 Property; state revenue commissioner to deduct certain funds from deposits to the state treasury; authorize**

**Bill Summary:** HB 231 seeks to allow the Commissioner of Revenue the ability to deduct from proceeds of unclaimed property that is to be remitted to the state, the commission that is to be paid to outside auditing services for services resulting from the determination of unclaimed property.

**Authored By:** Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)

**House  
Committee:**

Ways &amp; Means

**Committee  
Action:**

02-12-2015 Do Pass

**HB 234 Tax collection; days in which the Federal Reserve Bank is closed in the list of days that excuse late filing or payment; include**

Bill Summary: HB 234 allows for an extension of when taxes must be remitted to the Department of Revenue, for when the Federal Reserve Bank may be close for any other reason excluding legal holidays.

**Authored By:**

Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th)

**House  
Committee:**

Ways &amp; Means

**Committee  
Action:**02-12-2015 Do Pass by Committee  
Substitute

## Committee Meeting Schedule

*This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change.*

*To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).*

**Friday, February 13, 2015**

**NO MEETINGS**

**Saturday, February 14, 2015**

**Sunday, February 15, 2015**

**Monday, February 16, 2015**

**NO MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, February 17, 2015**

10:00 AM [FLOOR SESSION \(LD 16\)](#) - HOUSE CHAMBER

8:00 AM [Regulated Industries Subcommittee](#) - 506 CLOB

9:00 AM [RULES](#) - 341 CAP

1:00 PM [Local Government Subcommittee of Governmental Affairs](#) - 515 CLOB

1:00 PM [STATE PLANNING & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS](#) - 403 CAP

1:30 PM [SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT](#) - 606 CLOB

2:00 PM [Public Safety Subcommittee A](#) - 515 CLOB

2:00 PM [Appropriations Health Subcommittee](#) - 341 CAP

2:00 PM [INFORMATION & AUDITS](#) - 216 CAP

2:00 PM [Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittee](#) - 415 CLOB

3:30 PM [Academic Support Subcommittee of Education](#) - 514 CLOB

4:00 PM [PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY](#) - 406 CLOB